

JOB CORPS

PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK

Region IV

March/April 2004
volume 5 issue 2

*Oklahoma
Job Corps
Legislative Day*
pg. 1

*Guest Chefs Enrich
Guthrie Job Corps
Program*
pg. 1

*Ask Arla, Letters to
the Editor*
pg. 2

Center Tidbits
pg. 2

*The Bunny in
the Tree*
by Dean Christopher
pg. 3

*Tulsa Students
Recognize National
Youth Service Day*
pg. 3

Oklahoma Job Corps Legislative Day

The Oklahoma Job Corps Coalition, which consists of Guthrie, Tulsa, Talking Leaves, and Treasure Lake, celebrated "Oklahoma Job Corps Legislative Day" on May 4, 2004. Governor Brad Henry signed a proclamation stating that May 4, 2004, was considered "Oklahoma Job Corps Day." Students and staff were introduced on both the State House and Senate floors. They received a standing ovation from both sides.

All of the Oklahoma Student Government Associations teamed up and created information packets to disseminate to all of the Oklahoma State House and Senate Representatives.

Each Oklahoma Job Corps set up an information booth in the State Capitol Rotunda. Students handed out brochures and Job Corps trinkets and the Guthrie Job Corps Culinary Arts class prepared gourmet hors d'oeuvres for the event. At one

point during the day's activities, over 200 senators, representatives, and capitol workers were standing in line to taste Guthrie's treats.

"This event is a wonderful way for all of Oklahoma's Job Corps to build a linkage with local law makers," said Priscilla Mayberry, Center Director for the Guthrie Job Corps.

Contact Arla to be put on the newsletter mailing list.

Guest Chefs Enrich Guthrie Job Corps Program

Over the last four months, Guthrie Job Corps has incorporated a new program into the Culinary Arts training.

Each month, a guest chef spends two days with the students preparing a meal the chef has designed. So far, chefs Jim Stellers, Joe Naiftea, Rob Farris, and Ben Coffin (all well-known chefs in Oklahoma) have participated.

Coffin, the chef for March, had the students prepare a menu for the Community Relations Council members that he has served at his own restaurant, BeSpoke. GJCC students that worked with Coffin included Karim Akbar, Augzstina Vargas, Kimberly Keeton, Earl Etta Cummings, Christina Gates, and Jason Head.

The menu included a salad with walnuts and cranberries, scalloped

potatoes, bread, pork loin with special gravy, and a strawberry and cream dessert.



Left to Right – Ben Coffin, Guest Chef; Jason Head, Deirde Smith, and Earl Etta Cummings.

Bill Naifea, Guthrie Job Corps Center Culinary Art Instructor, first met Coffin at Oklahoma State University (OSU) and later asked him to participate in the program. Coffin has helped with similar programs both with OSU and 4-H.

Coffin, who has a degree in hotel and restaurant administration from OSU and a degree from Le Cordon Bleu in London, said, "I always enjoy working with younger people."

Under this new program, students have been exposed to individuals who make their living doing the same thing the students are training for. The chefs give students an idea of what types of salaries they can make and different opportunities that are available to them in the future.

"Young men like Ben (Coffin) are not much older than our students," said Bill Naifea, "and that's what makes it really neat and exciting."

The Culinary Arts class has two instructors. Mary Swindall is in charge of the book training, and Bill Naifea has the students in the lab.



Employment and
Training Administration

JOB CORPS News

Ask Arla



Dear Arla,

I am brand new to Region IV and this newsletter; specifically, what kind of articles would you like us to submit? Thank you.

E.M. – Wyoming

Dear E.M.,

The articles that we try to target for the

newsletter are any that involve the center with the community and local businesses, as well as any unique stories involving the students and their activities. I try to use everything, or at least something, from each center that submits information. Sometimes the information is a feature article or it can be listed under “Center Tidbits” depending on the turnout. Hope this helps! Look forward to seeing something from you.

All articles, information, Letters to the Editor, Ask Arla letters, and CDSS Directory changes for the Volume 5 Issue 3 newsletter are due by **Tues., July 6, 2004** to:

Arla de Hoyos

922 S. Alamo

San Antonio, TX 78205

210.226.2827 phone

210.226.6827 fax

rla@cuttingedgsa.com

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I'm a new employee; can you tell why post-program surveys such as the 6 and 12 month placement surveys are conducted? –
New Hire

Dear New Hire,

Follow-up surveys are conducted for various reasons, such as:

- Providing annual information to

Congress and the Secretary of Labor on the employment and education outcomes of Job Corps graduates and former enrollees, as required by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

- Re-verifying initial placement reports
- Reporting post-program outcomes on the Center, Career Transition Services (CTS) and Vocational Training (VES) Report Cards

- Assessing graduates' and former enrollees' satisfaction with their Job Corps experiences and identifying program elements that were useful to participants and factors that contributed to decisions to withdraw before graduation
- Supporting continuous program quality improvement for the Job Corps system

Center Tidbits

Albuquerque

One-hundred twenty-five students graduated at Albuquerque Job Corps' first graduation of 2004. Valedictorian Jacob Kennedy is attending TVI, has almost completed his Associates Degree, and has completed an internship at Congresswoman Heather Wilson's office. Congratulations to all 125 graduates!

Clearfield

Now that's a friend! Fellow student Jason Madrid recently gave graduate Paul Harwood the gift of a lifetime. Paul graduated from the UAW-LETC Advanced Automotive Training Program late March, 2004. Although he knew that he had a job lined up for him at the John Deere plant in Iowa, he had no idea he would soon have a vehicle of his own to drive there. Jason Madrid, Paul's classmate at UAW was a lucky recipient of a 1991 Plymouth Voyager during an annual UAW drawing conducted on March 5, 2004, where three vehicles were given away to students.

Realizing that Paul was in desperate need of a vehicle, Jason graciously handed the van keys to Paul. Paul was ecstatic, to say the least. To ensure that the vehicle, which had been donated to UAW by a member of the community, was in “ship-shape,” UAW students, under the guidance of Master-ASE-certified instructors had checked out the vehicle thoroughly and performed all necessary repairs. This was truly a great moment – a good deed was done, and a great job filled.

Collbran

May was a busy month for students at the Collbran Job Corps Center! On May 1, fifty Collbran students participated in the annual MS Walk in Grand Junction. The walk was part of a national fundraising event to work for a cure for Multiple Sclerosis. Counselor Larry Ruth and the Center's Peer Counselors headed up the activity on center.

Also in May, Collbran students, Mike Thomas, Shade Esparsen, and Todd Van

Maldeghem, along with teachers Alan Anderson and Keith Ross, traveled to the state Jaycee Convention in Vail, Colorado, to do a presentation on FIRST Robotics and the Job Corps program.

David L. Carrasco

There was much encouragement, sentiment, and emotion as four center graduates spoke at the Accelerated High School Diploma Program/GED luncheon honoring 93 students in late March. Staff members, family, and friends attended the luncheon to congratulate the graduating group. One keynote speaker, 1984 graduate Luis Rodriguez, had this to say to the honorees, “The reason we are here today is to tell you that it is going to take education for you to make it. Take advantage of these opportunities while here at Job Corps. One day you'll be invited back to speak about your Job Corps experiences and what Job Corps did for you.”

Continued on page 4

JOB CORPS News

The Bunny in the Tree - Educating Student Imaginations *By Dean Christopher*



In his autobiography *Speak, Memory*, the great Russian-born American novelist Vladimir Nabokov relates a childhood anecdote. One rainy day, when he and his brother couldn't play outside, their nanny gave them a coloring book to keep them occupied. On one page was a drawing of a landscape with a tree in the foreground. The caption read, "Can you find the bunny in the tree?" Some branches were drawn slightly thicker than others, making a picture-within-the-picture – the bunny in the tree.

Nabokov notes that, *because they were tipped off* that there was a bunny somewhere in the tree, it didn't take long to find it. *But what if there had been no tip-off?* Would they have ever noticed anything but branches and leaves – the stuff you normally expect to find in a tree? Young Nabokov immediately began to wonder about other trees. Were there bunnies hiding in *them*? Or other creatures? What could be lurking undiscovered in hedges, in cornfields, in the waving grass, in the cloudy Russian sky?

From that one unexpected awakening to the idea of "something-hidden-in-something else," a young imagination caught fire. Never again could Nabokov look at trees in quite the same way; in fact, never again could he look at *anything* in quite the same way. That one instant of

enlightenment – at age five – probably sparked his entire literary career.

I was telling this story recently in a marketing seminar when one participant jumped up excitedly and cried, "Wait, I have a bunny for you!" He rushed to his office and returned with a *FedEx* envelope. "Anyone here see it?" he asked. We all peered intently at the envelope. Finally one woman spotted the "bunny" – the white arrowhead snuggled inside the logo where the "E" intersects with the "X." There. Now *you* will never again see *FedEx* without also seeing the arrowhead "bunny"!

And that's how all education works: you awaken people's awareness to the possibility of bunnies in trees. An educator's job is to jump-start minds, and put them in running order. One effective way to do this is through story telling (like the Nabokov story I just told you). Stories do more than convey information; they put knowledge into an audience-friendly human context, making it more memorable, therefore more easily accessible when needed. What are the chances that you'll ever look at a tree without also looking for a bunny?

Over 2,000 years ago, Aristotle taught that whenever our minds open to include a new idea they never shrink back to their original size. That new idea – even if we reject it – becomes a permanent part of our consciousness forever after. It's something to rub up against other ideas, multiplying the inventory

in our mental tool kit.

Still, the sad fact is that most people are never taught where to look, even *how* to look, beyond the obvious. Few even notice the trees, let alone any unexpected contents. They live in a flat, unfulfilled bunny-less world.

But this article is about more than allegorical kiddie stories; my central point concerns something a bit more profound than shrubbery and branches and little furry mammals. It's about how meaningful learning happens. True, education is the process of teaching people that there's far more to life than they usually see. But it's even more important to teach people that there's *far more to them* than they usually see. Every Job Corps arrival carries, deep inside, an unborn potential for personal happiness and success. Yet most of them don't even suspect that those possibilities exist – that they really can be actualized. So a Job Corps education – vocational, social or academic – should always include the tipping-off process that helps students find and develop their individual "inner bunnies."

No matter how evolved you are already, a great way to manage this process is to begin by seeking out fresh new bunnies of your own. Sharpen up your vision. Let your imagination fly. Examine the trees, the streets, the fields, your living room rug, those unfrequented corners of your soul. The bunnies are there, I swear they are. So go ahead – find them! You'll be amazed how much good it will do you.

Tulsa Students Recognize National Youth Service Day

Tulsa Job Corps Center Student Government Association Officers, Advisor, and BCL spent a day giving back to their community by recognizing National Youth Service Day (NYSD).

April 16th was one of the two days that the Tulsa Job Corps Center students and staff designated as days to celebrate and publicly recognize NYSD. Local-employer partner the City of Tulsa also participated.

TJCC painted over graffiti that overwhelmed the downtown area of Tulsa.

One of Tulsa's local News Stations, KOTV - Channel 6, recognized TJCC for NYSD and interviewed TJCC's SGA President Trystan Johnson. The story aired on the 6:00 o'clock news slot that same day.

To close out NYSD, TJCC also held a Blood Drive on April 19, 2004, with the assistance of local-national partner American Red Cross. Staff and students participated in helping the center meet their donor goal.



Pictured (from left to right): Officer Trystan Johnson, Patrick Doyle, Christopher Lee, Anthony Williams, Ashani Jackson, Joye Shoats-SGA Advisor, and Linda Etienne



Gary

Gary Job Corps students remember *The Alamo*. Over 50 Gary JCC students got the chance to be in the new Disney version of *The Alamo* when Hispanic males were needed to play Mexican soldiers in the latest recounting of the legendary 1836 battle. In late January 2003, the movie's producers put out a casting call for 500 extras and approximately 90 Gary students responded. Of the more than 50 students hired some worked on the film for as long as 12 weeks over a six month period. Working conditions were harsh and the hours were long, sometimes up to 17 hours on location. One student, James Garcia says the experience was unforgettable and said, "One of the most memorable accomplishments for me was working with some of the biggest actors in Hollywood today. The first time I met Billy Bob Thornton, Dennis Quaid, Emilio Eschavaria, and Jason Patric was almost unreal!"

Kicking Horse

Once again, the 24th annual Kicking Horse Pow Wow was riveting success! Held at Kicking Horse Job Corps Center on May 1, 2004, over 600 community members were treated to a spellbinding display of events, which included two Grand Entries at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Twenty (20) drum groups attended as well as over 100 dancers from throughout the western United States and Canada. Culinary Arts trainees prepared a free buffalo dinner provided by the contractor, Confederated Salish, & Kootenai Tribes, and fed over 400 visitors. The Kicking Horse Indian Club sponsored a Hand Drum contest and the Kicking Horse Pow Wow Committee sponsored a Women's All-Around dance special. Dancers competed for over \$2,000 in prize money in the packed, sultry gymnasium. Prize money was provided by the contractor, the Confederated Salish, & Kootenai Tribes. Kicking Horse students provided security, set up, and clean up. Student Government cooked fry bread, hamburgers, and hot dogs in the concession stands. They also sponsored a raffle for a storage shed, picnic table, and a cord of wood as well as prizes donated by Kicking Horse staff and vendors.

Little Rock

DEL-JEN, Inc. is pleased to announce that Mr. Willie Brown is the new Center Director of the Little Rock Job Corps Center. Mr. Brown's Job Corps career began in 1988, when he became a Residential Advisor. Over the years, he has been a positive contributor on several centers in positions that cover the full range of the organization chart. These positions include Academics Manager, Social Development Director, Programs Director, Deputy Director, and Center Director. Mr. Brown has also served in the corporate offices of two major Job Corps contractors. We are certain that Mr. Brown's extensive experience, positive leadership style, and caring attitude toward students will make him an asset to Del-Jen, Inc., Little Rock JCC, and Region IV.

North Texas

Several North Texas students and staff participated in National Youth Service Day activities on Saturday, April 17, 2004. The students were prepped in the correct use of landscaping equipment and advised of "what to do and what not to do" while working outdoors. During their service project, Flo Henry, Ross Cemetery Board member, took several of the volunteers on a tour of the area and pointed out the history located within its gates. Volunteers learned that Ross Cemetery is the resting place of many persons that were born into slavery and eventually died free. There were also gravesites of African Americans that fought in both WW I and II. The students realized that they were really connected to their past and were contributing to something truly bigger than just a "clean up."

Ouachita

On March 31, 2004, the Ouachita TEAP Committee sponsored an exciting Kick Butts Day. Chairperson Josh Pennington, and committee members Jeremiah Blakesley, Robert Jenkins, Tony Earley, Weston Bowman, and Felecia Lee worked hard over several weeks to plan this wonderfully entertaining and informative day. Thirty-eight students signed a contract saying they would not smoke for the entire day. They were taken on an outing

for the day, and climbed Pinnacle Mountain in Little Rock, Arkansas, a 1,100 foot climb. All 38 students made it to the top. Their sponsor, TEAP Coordinator Kathy Derrick, and driver and Head Carpentry Instructor, Howard Kemp, joined them at the top for fun and relaxation. The final activity for the day was a mini-course on Smoking Cessation, presented by Amanda Harvey from the American Lung Association. This was the "Kick Off" for beginning the N-O-T (Not on Tobacco) Smoking Cessation classes that will be starting at Ouachita Job Corps.

In addition to the Kick Butts Day outing, the TEAP Committee sponsored a poster contest, with prizes of gift certificates of \$75 for first place (Samantha Adams), \$50 for second place (Veronica Cargile), and \$25 for third place (Michelle Aaron).



Top row: Damien Ned, Josh Pennington, Jeremiah Blakesley, Alphonso Candy, Felicia Lewis, Joe Jackson Center row: Walter Eicher, Joseph Duckworth, Ms. Kathy Derrick, Chris Green, Chris Fulton, Robert Jenkins Bottom right: Brooks Cockran, Samatha Adams, and Nick Ring.

Weber Basin

Eight students from Weber Basin Job Corps in Ogden, Utah, had an Earth Day experience they'll never forget. The students spent the better part of the day in South Salt Lake City working along side the mayor and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner, John Keys, in an effort to save the Mill Creek River from erosion. "I always love working with the students from Job Corps. I can't say enough about them and the hard work they do. I appreciate them being here," said Reclamation Commissioner, John Keys. The students helped plant over 225 seedlings of willows and various trees along the banks of the Mill Creek River in order to keep it from eroding. The students received a certificate of appreciation from Governor Olene Walker for their participation in her Watershed Project.